

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/950,019

Applicant(s)

KONDO ET AL.

Examiner

DANIEL G. MARIAM

Art Unit

2621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an amendment filed on February 28, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-21,29,30,32 and 42-46.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 10 September 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


DANIEL MIRIAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-21, 29-30, 32, and 42-46 are allowed. The claims will be renumbered as 1-29.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: with respect to claims 29-30, 32, and 42-46 the reasons for allowance of claims 29-30, 32, and 42-46 presented in the last Office Action are not repeated herein, but are incorporated by reference. With respect to claims 1-21 the prior art of record do not teach or suggest, among other things, extracting means for extracting a pixel corresponding to an object including a target pixel from the thin-line image, when the event detecting means detects the event at the position designated by the user's operation in a space direction of the target image, by setting, as the target pixel, a pixel of the thin-line image corresponding to the one component image at the position designated by the event, by storing a pixel value of the target pixel at the stored position corresponding to the position on the target pixel, by searching for a portion up to a thin-line area of the thin-line image in the space direction at the set target pixel as the origin, and by storing the pixel value searched at the stored position corresponding to the searched pixel position; and control means for, when the user selects at least one part of the object displayed on one screen out of the plurality of screens displayed on said display means, controlling an operation for transferring and storing the pixel value of the pixel stored in said primary storing means corresponding to the selected part, at the stored position corresponding to the position of the pixel in said object storing means, and also controlling such an operation that said designated position storing means stores the position corresponding to at least a part of the object selected, said table means stores the component and the threshold corresponding to at least a part of the object selected to have a corresponding relationship with the identifier, and said history image storing means stores the identifier, as the

Art Unit: 2621

pixel value, at the position of the pixel in at least one part of the object selected. It is for these reasons and combination with all of the other elements of the claims that claims 1-21 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANIEL G. MARIAM whose telephone number is 571-272-7394. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:00-4:30) FIRST FRIDAY OFF.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, BHAVESH M. MEHTA can be reached on 571-272-7453. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

Art Unit: 2621

system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


DANIEL MIRIAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER
April 29, 2005